

## Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 STATE 088522  
ORIGIN NEA-02

INFO OCT-01 EUR-02 ISO-00 /005 R

66011

DRAFTED BY: NEA/PAB:RKMCKEE

APPROVED BY: NEA/PAB:RKMCKEE

-----201005Z 018465 /15

R 200149Z APR 77

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY PARIS

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 088522

FOLLOWING REPEAT ISLAMABAD 03836 SENT ACTION SECSTATE INFO DACCA,  
KABUL, KARACHI, LAHORE, NEW DELHI, TEHRAN, SECDEF, DIA,  
CINCPAC 19 APR 77

QUOTE C O N F I D E N T I A L ISLAMABAD 3836

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PK, PINT

SUBJECT: ARMY'S ROLE IN CURRENT CRISIS

1. BBC CORRESPONDENT ANDREW WHITLEY HAD APPOINTMENT TO  
INTERVIEW IV CORPS COMMANDER LT. GENERAL IQBAL ON FRIDAY,  
APRIL 15 IN LAHORE. IQBAL IS SENIOR CORPS COMMANDER AND  
HE AND GENERAL ARBAB, THE CORPS COMMANDER IN KARACHI,  
ARE CONSIDERED TO BE MOST INFLUENTIAL ARMY GENERALS AFTER  
CHIEF OF STAFF ZIA. ALL OBSERVERS AGREE THAT IQBAL AND  
ARBAB WILL PLAY CENTRAL ROLE IF ARMY IS FORCED TO ACTIVELY  
INTERVENE IN THE CONFRONTATION.

2. WHITLEY DID NOT MEET IQBAL, BUT INSTEAD INTERVIEWED  
IQBAL'S AIDE, A BRIGADIER. WHITLEY WAS STRUCK BY THE BRIGADIER'S  
CANDOR AND HIS WILLINGNESS TO DISCUSS THE ARMY'S ROLE. BEFORE  
LEAVING PAKISTAN OVER THE WEEKEND, WHITLEY PASSED SUBSTANCE  
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 STATE 088522

OF INTERVIEW TO BBC CORRESPONDENT MARK TULLY WHO IS RESIDENT  
IN LAHORE. TULLY MET WITH EMBOFF AND CONGEN OFFICER APRIL 18  
AND MENTIONED FOLLOWING GLEANED FROM WHITLEY INTERVIEW.

3. IT HAS BEEN CUSTOMARY FOR THE CORPS COMMANDERS TO HOST  
DINNERS FOR THE PM WHEN HE VISITS THE PROVINCES. WHILE IN  
LAHORE THIS PAST WEEK, IQBAL HAD NOT OFFERED TO HOST A FUNCTION,

SO THE PM REQUESTED THAT HE DO SO. IN RESPONSE, IQBET HOSTED A RECEPTION APRIL 14. ACCORDING TO WHITLEY INTERVIEW AND PAKISTANI JOURNALISTIC SOURCES, IQBAL ACTED VERY FORMAL AND PROPER WITH THE PM AND, FOR EXAMPLE, DID NOT MEET HIM OUTSIDE THE MESS AS IS CUSTOMARY.

4. BHUTTO ASKED THAT NO OFFICERS BELOW THE RANK OF FULL COLONEL BE INVITED TO THE RECEPTION SINCE LOWER RANKING OFFICERS HAVE ASKED EMBARRASSING QUESTIONS, MOST RECENTLY AT DINNER HOSTED BY GENERAL ARBAB IN KARACHI SEVERAL WEEKS AGO. THE BRIGADIER, IN AN INDIRECT WAY, INDICATED TO TULLY THAT PM ASKED TO GET TOGETHER WITH IQBAL AND HIS SENIOR OFFICERS DURING THE AFTER-NOON OF THE RECEPTION. DURING THE MEETING BHUTTO-IN CIRCUITOUS MANNER-ASKED WOULD THE ARMY BE WILLING TO HAVE MARTIAL LAW WITH BHUTTO AS CHIEF MARTIAL LAW ADMINISTRATOR IF THE SECURITY SITUATION CONTINUES TO DETERIORATE. IQBAL, IN A SIMILAR CAUTIOUS AND POLITE MANNER, ANSWERED NO. IQBAL WENT ON TO INDICATE TO PM HE COULD NOT EXPECT THE ARMY TO ACTIVELY SUPPORT HIM IN ATTEMPTING TO FORCE A SOLUTION TO THE PRESENT CRISIS ON THE NATION.

5. THE BRIGADIER-AND A PAKISTANI JOURNALIST IN SEPARATE CONVERSATION WITH EMBOFF-SAID THAT ORDERS HAD GONE OUT FROM PPP HEADQUARTERS THIS PAST WEEK TO ARM PPP SUPPORTERS SO THEY COULD "PROTECT THEMSELVES" AGAINST THE PNA. DURING EARLY MORNING, WHEN THE ARMS WERE BEING DISTRIBUTED TO PPP LOCAL OFFICES IN LAHORE, THE AGKM INTERCEPTED SOME OF THE SHIPMENTS AND IS STILL HOLDING THE ARMS.

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 STATE 088522

6. WHITLEY'S INTERVIEW SUPPORTS THE POSITION WHICH WE HAVE EARLIER REPORTED. WE CONTINUE TO BELIEVE THE ARMY DOES NOT WANT TO GET INVOLVED IN THE PRESENT CRISIS, IS HOPING FOR A POLITICAL SOLUTION, AND WILL NOT ACTIVELY SUPPORT THE PM IN FORCING A SOLUTION.

BYROADE  
UNQUOTE VANCE

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** REPORTS, ARMED FORCES, INTERVENTION, PUBLIC DEMONSTRATIONS, POLITICAL SITUATION, CIVIL DISORDERS  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Sent Date:** 20-Apr-1977 12:00:00 am  
**Decaption Date:** 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 22 May 2009  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1977STATE088522  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** NEA/PAB:RKMCKEE  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** GS  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Expiration:**  
**Film Number:** D770136-1149  
**Format:** TEL  
**From:** STATE  
**Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Image Path:**  
**ISecure:** 1  
**Legacy Key:** link1977/newtext/t19770437/aaaabfzd.tel  
**Line Count:** 104  
**Litigation Code IDs:**  
**Litigation Codes:**  
**Litigation History:**  
**Locator:** TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM  
**Message ID:** 6d0eb1a1-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc  
**Office:** ORIGIN NEA  
**Original Classification:** CONFIDENTIAL  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Page Count:** 2  
**Previous Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Previous Classification:** CONFIDENTIAL  
**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Reference:** n/a  
**Retention:** 0  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 19-Nov-2004 12:00:00 am  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**SAS ID:** 2747161  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** ARMY\S ROLE IN CURRENT CRISIS  
**TAGS:** PINT, PK  
**To:** PARIS  
**Type:** TE  
**vdkgvwkey:** odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS\_Docs/6d0eb1a1-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc  
**Review Markings:**  
Margaret P. Grafeld  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
22 May 2009  
**Markings:** Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009